

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Advisory Action of May 22, 2006, indicates certain claims (specifically claims 9-11 and 22) were listed as “Allowed” in Applicants’ proposed Amendment of May 4, 2006. The Advisory Action states the Proposed Amendment of May 4, 2006, was not in compliance with Offices Rules (37 CFR 1.121), and therefore, could not be entered. The Rules of Practice do not provide for an “Allowed” category of claims.

This corrected paper lists claims 9-11 and 22 as “previously presented”. In view of the fact that Applicants’ proposed Amendment of May 4, 2006, was not entered the same claims with corrected status are been resubmitted at this time for further examination. Entry of this paper and reconsideration of the claims on the merits are courteously requested

The Final Office Action of 12/20/05, states claims 9-11 and 22 were allowed, and that claims 18 and 23-26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent format, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It was never quite clear from the Final Office Action why claim 18 was allowed in view of the fact that it was dependent from rejected claim 17. Seemingly, claim 18 should have been objected to as being dependent from rejected claim 17.

In any event, Applicants are treating claim 18 as an objected to claim. Claim 18 pursuant to this paper has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 17, and is now drafted in independent format. Because claim 18 includes all the limitations of claim 17, it should now be in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 19-21 are directly dependent from claim 18, and include all the limitations of independent claim 18. Therefore, claims 19-21 should also be allowable. Claims 23-31 also relate back directly or indirectly to claim 18, and include all the limitations of claim 18, plus the limitations of any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 23-31 should also be in condition for allowance.

In summation, only objected to claim 18 is being substantively amended pursuant to this paper to include the limitations of independent claim 17. Claims 19-21 and 23-31 all relate back to newly amended claim 18. Hence, claims 18-21 and 23-31 should now be in condition for allowance, in addition to claims 9-11 and 22.

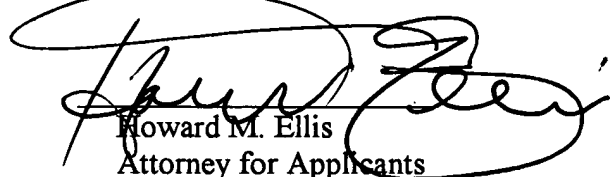
This amendment should be entered because it does not introduce any new limitations into the claims requiring further search and/or consideration, but complies with the objection to

claims 18 and 23-26 appearing in the final Office Action. In addition, by amending the dependency of claims 19-21, 27 and 31 so they are now dependent from claim 18, those claims should also be in condition for allowance. This also reduces the number of issues for appeal.

Favorable consideration of this amendment is courteously requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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